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ML director earns recognition for role in diversity

by Timothy R. Anderl, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Dr. Charles E. Browning, director of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, received the Dayton Intergovernmental Equal Employment Opportunity Council's (DIEEOC) Charles Crawford Jr. Executive Manager of The Year Award on April 29. Browning was presented the award for his leadership in promoting diversity and equal employment opportunity within the Air Force science and technology workforce.

Dr. Browning is responsible for planning and executing the Air Force's advanced materials, processes, manufacturing and environmental technology programs. During his tenure, the directorate has established several educational partnership agreements with area Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

According to his nomination, which was written by AFRL Commander Major General Paul D. Nielsen, "Dr. Browning's commitment to HBCU/Minority Institutions and minorities has been truly demonstrated by a visionary management style whereby he pushed collaborations with these colleges and universities throughout ML, AFRL and AFMC before these types of efforts were widely pursued. By forging a trail for others to follow with his time, funding and organization resources, the HBCU/MIs, their students and the Air Force will greatly benefit for years to come."

Dr. Browning initiated a collaboration program with HBCUs in November 2000, which was designed to identify, characterize and select the HBCUs with the best materials and manufacturing research and development capabilities and to provide the directorate early access to science and engineering graduates from HBCUs. According to General Nielsen, this effort has resulted in funding for research and development projects at HBCUs, new Educational Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with HBCUs, providing HBCU faculty and students summer employment, providing full-time employment for HBCU graduates, and assigning ML researchers to teach at HBCUs.

Dr. Browning has signed EPAs with Fisk, Tuskegee, and Wilberforce Universities, and an EPA is currently pending with Florida A&M University. He also funded \$1.2 million in technical efforts with HBCU/MIs, donated \$17,000 in computers to Wilberforce University and \$161,000 in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance equipment to Tuskegee University. He also serves on Technical Advisory Boards at Florida A&M and Tuskegee Universities.

In addition, Dr. Browning organized AFRL and AFMC participation in the annual conferences for the Black Engineer of the Year Awards and the National Society of Black Engineers. From this endeavor, the Air Force was able to create a database of scientist and engineer resumes, which they could reference for future employees.

The DIEEOC officially formed in the late 1960s when civilian personnel from Wright-Patterson AFB met to assist each other in the development and implementation of affirmative action projects and programs. The organization has grown to include representatives from state and city government, and the Dayton Board of Education.



Dr. Charles E. Browning